

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative
Landscape Level Planning Subcommittee
06/23/2016

Via Teleconference

Attendees: Jennifer Kleitch, Eric Myers, Phil Wyckoff, Galen Bartels, Don Tritsch, Noah Jansen, Seamus Norgaard, Wes Andrews

Jennifer: This call is to talk about habitat cutting and get everyone's concerns addressed. Thank you for being part of the conversation. Email can be overwhelming and can be misinterpreted, it is sometimes best to have live conversations. Set the timeframe for this conversation at 1 hour or less.

Wes and Noah have not been on the subcommittee. Jennifer explained how we arrived at where we are. At the Collaborative meeting in Harbor Springs there was a commitment to do the landscape planning effort which will include both wild areas and managed areas. With that commitment was a "will live with" agreement to make an exception this year and complete a wildlife habitat grant proposal for up to 40 acres of a habitat cut. The entire collaborative said they would live with these agreements. It is up to us as a subcommittee to fulfill these agreements.

Phil: Grant application process is moving along, have everything we need. The grant is awarded on competitive basis. Going to go silent on what is in the grant application until the grant application end date in October. Other people are competing for these grants that could use the information that is in this application. Wes: Have the Tribe or Natural Resources written letters of support? A. in the write up it was included that there is collaboration with the tribes; Wes will include a letter of support to Phil.

Details of cut and how that will be done, marking, who would do it was discussed next. Phil's response was that the wildlife club would be responsible for the administration of the cut. Part of the grant includes matching funds for labor. Don: received the gps download and all worked well with that. Seamus: was not able to walk the property with everyone but was able to do it on his own. Thought the previous habitat cut looked really good, thought it looked like a natural windfall. Thought some trees were cut that should not have been (black ash), would like for someone to work with the wildlife club to make sure that the markings are correct. Phil: there was no restriction on cutting ash trees in the previous cut; they were not identified as not to be cut. Those that were cut were marked to be cut. What is wrong with cutting Ash trees? Phil: the tribe has stated concerns. Wes: Black ash is used by tribal members for things like basket making. Ash should be avoided to be cut or if they are cut could be given to the tribe to be used. Don: want to make sure that the grant is approved/permit is issued before anything is done. Looking at 4th quarter of 2016 when work would be started in the new cut area. Work with tribes and get logistics for getting ash to basket makers.

The subcommittee made a commitment to mark the trees and save for later cutting or get to the basket makers.

Jennifer: How much of the area is going to be cut? Phil & Jennifer: Not all of it will be cut; there is a wet spot that doesn't have very many trees and an area that has a mixture of species. Also if there is a peninsula of cedar that will not be cut. Not a traditional clear-cut. Would it mimic wind-throw? This cut may mimic a wind-throw either way. Seamus: Patch clear-cuts? Without it being marked it is hard to see what is going to be. Eric: To get aspen to regen you would need more sunlight and

more open area, if you are going to mimic natural occurrences (very small openings) then it may not allow for aspen regen. Don: it is a hard spot to get to so aesthetics should not be a factor as much. Jennifer: Aspen is not the only goal, wildlife habitat is the ultimate goal. Edge is important for several wildlife species; this cut would create the important habitat for wildlife and would create that "patchy" effect everyone is looking for. Balsam fir being cut? A: Yes.

Species present in the proposed cut area: aspen, maple, birch, fir, some ash, some cedar w/ aspen mixed in.

Noah: sounds like a good proposal with the species that will be cut and those that will be left behind. May choose to leave some larger scattered trees and anything standing dead will be left. Eric: should observe how the last cut is being utilized by the wildlife to see if there are any changes/tweaks that should be made to the proposal. Seamus: there should be monitoring of the cut areas to see what the results are and learn from them.

Conclusion: monitoring is desired, monitoring wildlife and tree re-growth, and create a survey. The last cut was received well and all of those involved with the grant for that were pleased with the re-growth

Phil: would like to work with an agenda with timelines for each topic for these meetings. Jennifer: This call went well without an agenda however for future meetings we will work with an agenda and have some timelines.

Next meeting: MNFI assistance; CAP Plan; 7th or 19th? Jennifer will send an email to everyone.